

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
50 EAST ST.
NEW MILFORD, CT. 06776

COMMITTEE ON LEARNING SUB-COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTICE

DATE:	September 15, 2009
TIME:	7:30PM
PLACE:	Lillis Administration Building – Room 2

GEORGE C. BUCKBEE
TOWN CLERK

2009 SEP 11 P 1:23

NEW MILFORD, CT

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comment**
The Board welcomes Public Participation and asks that speakers please limit their comments to 3 minutes. Speakers may offer objective comments of school operations and programs that concern them. The Board will not permit any expression of personal complaints or defamatory comments about Board of Educations personnel and students, nor against any person connected with the New Milford Public School System.
3. **Discussion and Possible Action**
 - A. **Review and Approval of Curricula**

1. Revision Honors Math I	Mr. Shaffer
2. Revision Honors Math II	Ms. Allison
3. Revision Integrated Math (9&10)	Ms. Murnan
4. Grade 7 Math	Ms. Ross
 - B. **Update on NMHS/NEASC**
Mr. Shugrue
 - C. **Windows on New Milford 2009**
Mrs. Richard
4. **Adjourn**

Sub-Committee Members: Mr. David Lawson, Chairman
Mrs. Amy Llerena
Mrs. Alexandra Thomas
Mr. William Wellman

Alternates: Mr. Thomas McSherry
Mrs. Elizabeth Finney

The Committee on Learning documents
can be previewed in the
Office of the Assistant Superintendent—
Lillis Administration Building—Room 6.

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**New Milford Board of Education
Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2009
Lillis Administration Building, Rm. 2**

2009 SEP 18 A 9 24

Present:	Mr. David Lawson, Committee Chairperson Mrs. Amy Llerena Mr. William Wellman Mrs. Alexandra Thomas
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GEORGE C. BUCKBEE
TOWN CLERK

Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Catherine Richard, Interim Assistant Superintendent Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, NMHS Mr. Les Weintraub, Principal, SNIS
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1.	The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:30pm.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment There was no public comment	Public Comment
3. A. 1.	Discussion and Possible Action Review and Approval of Curricula 1. Revision Honors Math I Mr. Shaffer noted this was Honors Algebra I which he said is somewhat an honors course and somewhat not. He said this is the same course as the one at Schaghticoke so those who would take this in high school either did not do well at Schaghticoke or did well in Math 8. He said this is the first time a math course guide has been written with Schaghticoke faculty.	Discussion and Possible Action Review and Approval of Curricula: Honors Math I, Honors Math II, Integrated Math (9 & 10), Grade 7 Math
2.	2. Revision Honors Math II Mr. Shaffer stated this was a gateway to AP calculus with traditional Algebra II topics, use of a graphing calculator, logarithms or functions, and 10 rapid weeks of trigonometry. This course leads directly to Pre-calculus and then Calculus.	

<p>3.</p>	<p>3. Revision Integrated Math (9 & 10)</p> <p>Mr. Shaffer said this course was for students who were not ready for Algebra.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Thomas asked if the handouts were referenced in the resources to which Mr. Shaffer said they were. • Mrs. Thomas said the practical and day to day applications were important. <p>4. Grade 7 Math</p> <p>Ms. Richard said she was impressed that all the curriculum have an emphasis on character traits. This is the average course for students who have completed grade 6 math and are preparing for grade 8 Pre-Algebra.</p>	
<p>3. B.</p>	<p>Update on NMHS/NEASC</p> <p>Mr. Shugrue said a letter had been received from NEASC requesting a report on the 2004 accreditation process recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He said the original report highlighted 68 recommendations of which 48 have been completed, 17 are in progress, 2 have had no action and 1 has been rejected. • He said on the positive side of this report a lot has been done to cover the recommendations from NEASC including a greater alignment of curriculum. • AP exams are up from 183 to 234; CAPT testing is relatively similar; 79% of the students who take the AP get 3 or better on the tests; SATs are up 5 points on verbal to 510 and math is 541; the number of students taking SAT's has dropped but more are taking the ACT's. • There is still some work ahead including a report that must be submitted by January 2, 2010 showing progress on the remaining recommendations. Mr. Shugrue was surprised at the strong wording in this letter which said the school's accreditation status will be reviewed. 	<p>Update on NMHS/NEASC</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As far as the report card recommendation, per NEASAC, the cards are being changed to reflect skills.• Differentiated instruction and heterogeneity in schools requires more work.• A plan needs to be submitted addressing the change in schools grouping patterns to reflect the student diversity but this is a big issue. An advisory program needs to be established to meet the NEASAC standard.• Mr. Wellman asked what differentiated instruction and heterogeneity meant. Mr. Shugrue said differentiated instruction meant that different subjects had to be taught in different ways, i.e., auditory learners, kinesthetic learners, etc.• Mr. Wellman asked what would happen if this was not done. Mr. Shugrue said this was a practice NEASAC would be expected to see during their visit to NMHS.• Mr. Shugrue noted that the mission of the school is to prepare “each and every student” by providing “effective instruction and dynamic curriculum” and some of the curriculum does not align with this mission.• Mr. Lawson asked for an example of a curriculum that did not align. Mr. Shugrue said the Algebra Honors curriculum would not align. Tracking needs to be addressed.• Mr. Shugrue also noted this was a systemic issue and not one he could handle in isolation. As an example, he gathered the free and reduced lunch population statistics and found there were 25 students in 9th grade alone. Two students were taking 2 honors classes of the 4 being offered while there a possible 125 classes.• Mr. Shugrue said the issue is this goes against much of what we were taught. He said the issue is not, raising the ceiling rather eliminating the ceiling.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Richard asked if Mr. Shugrue had a steering committee to assist him to which Mr. Shugrue said he did and he had presented this information to them. He also noted New Milford High was labeled as a school in need of improvement because they were not meeting all the populations educational needs. • Mrs. Thomas said if the indication was to do away with AP classes, the colleges were looking for students who had AP experience. Mr. Shugrue said the intent is not to do away with the AP classes. Rather, he said, the current tracking system had 4 levels – general, academic, honors, and AP. He said the future may be to make a general level and an AP level. • Mr. Shugrue said the politics of de-tracking will have to be talked about by the Board at some time. He said this task is greater than the work of the principal of New Milford High School. • Mrs. Thomas said she was offended by this letter because this is not a New Milford dilemma it is a national dilemma. • Mr. Wellman noted that it may be difficult for his goals for the schools to be aligned with NEASC expectations. • Mrs. Llerena asked if the Mimeo boards could be used as a differentiated education opportunity. • Mr. Lawson said the same lesson needs to be taught 3 or 4 different ways. • Mr. Wellman asked how that was done without boring the students who got the concept the first time. Mr. Shugrue said teaching has taken a totally different life and it is not an easy profession. 	
3.C.	<p>Windows on New Milford 2009</p> <p>Ms. Richard noted that Tom Mulvihill had done</p>	<p>Windows on New Milford 2009</p>

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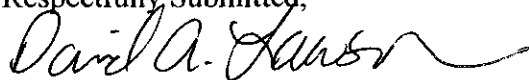
	<p>much of the work on this report prior to retiring from the school district.</p>	
	<p>Mr. Lawson, with apologies, interrupted the meeting briefly to ask for a motion to approve the curriculum discussed earlier.</p> <p>Mrs. Llerena moved to send to the full Board for approval the following curriculum: Honors Math I, Honors Math II, Integrated Math (9 & 10), Grade 7 Math, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and approved to send the following curricula to the full school board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Honors Math I 2. Honors Math II 3. Integrated Math (9 & 10) 4. Grade 7 Math
3.C.	<p>Windows on New Milford 2009 (cont.)</p> <p>Ms. Richard noted that overall, New Milford students have done well over time. She said the introduction of the report included new tests to be given.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American College Tests (ACT) have been added which show more achievement than aptitude, 99 have taken them this year. • Sarah Noble is in need of improvement because of the Special Education subgroup and the same with Schaghticoke and the high school. • The high school will be participating in CALI (Connecticut Accountability Learners Initiative) which will look at the Grade Level Expectations. • Scientific Research Based Intervention (SRBI) shows for students having difficulty, what can be done to help them. This is a top initiative at the state level. • Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) results show Hill and Plain has done well; Northville needs some additional work on reading; and John Pettibone needs additional work on writing. • October 9th is the first professional development day for the year and a presenter will come talk about literacy. • Grade 4 CMT results were disappointing but the students did do better in grades 5, 6 and 7. • 5th and 6th grade students are at or exceed 	<p>Windows on New Milford 2009 (cont.)</p> <p>Motion made and approved to send the NEASC update and the Windows on New Milford 2009 update to the full Board for discussion</p>

	<p>state averages for the CMT's and the science scores were up about 10 1/2%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grade 6 scores suggest that writing needs to be the focus.• Grade 8 results suggest that math materials and curriculum need to be looked at.• Ms. Richard said she is talking to schools within the same demographic reference group (DRG) who performed better than New Milford to see what they did.• New Milford High School's CAPT scores were good with more than 90% at goal. The special education sub-group had poor performance.• SAT scores dipped nationally but New Milford stayed solid with approximately 80% of the students taking them.• More students are taking the ACT test- this is a national trend.• SAT II test numbers are declining however these are paid for above and beyond the normal SATs.• AP testing showed 231 students taking the tests and 78% passed.• 27 students have been dismissed from services for ELL because they are doing well in the classroom and no longer need the services.• The New Milford special education population is not alone, many schools are having trouble getting these students up to the standards set by the state and this will only get harder as the expectation to goal will increase. By 2014 all students will have to be at 100% proficiency.• Mr. Wellman asked of the schools in need, was there something in particular that was causing the issue. Ms. Richard said that the significant population of special education students in district was an issue. Unless a student was severely cognitively challenged they had to sit and take the test , unless	
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	<p>exempt through their IEP , and then complete the checklist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Richard noted that New Milford's schools in need are one of many schools and the number will increase as the proficiency percentage increases. • Mr. Wellman asked what goal meant versus proficiency. Ms. Richard said proficiency meant that the basic skills were achieved while goal was a much higher percentage of students getting correct answers. • Mr. Lawson asked how the reports were given to parents. Mr. Shugrue said every student was sent an individual report with their scores versus the state averages. • Mr. Weintraub said the schools received one parent report and one file report and the parent reports were already sent home. <p>Mrs. Llerena moved to send the NEASC update and the Windows on New Milford 2009 update to the full Board for discussion, seconded by Mrs. Thomas and passed unanimously.</p>	
6.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mr. Wellman asked Mr. Lawson to check to see if it was possible to post a starting time on the agenda of 7 pm or immediately following the Policy Subcommittee.</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm seconded by Mrs. Llerena and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm</p>

Respectfully Submitted,



David A. Lawson
 Chair Committee on Learning